PERCELAY, Merrill
3-15-2016

Merrill Percelay, 89

PAWTUCKET, R.I. – Merrill Percelay, of Pawtucket, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Sheela Percelay to whom he was married for 65 years. He was the son of Jacob and Frances Percelay, and lifelong resident of Pawtucket.



Merrill graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., and served as a commissioned officer during World War II. He graduated from Brown University in 1949, and later from the Harvard Business School SCMP Program. He was co-owner of Troy Yarn, a textile company in Pawtucket, and subsequently, co-owner of Craft Yarns. He and his wife were volunteers for the Citizen Democracy Corps, serving two months on small business economic development in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was an honorary board member of the Jewish Family Service Organization and recipient of the Jefferson Award for helping resettle Russian immigrants.

He was a master woodworker, a talented engineer and loved the sea. He was a man of unwavering integrity, a value he instilled in his three sons.

Above all, he loved his family. Along with his wife Sheela, he is survived by his son James (and wife Sabine), Bruce (and wife Elisabeth), and David (and wife Dr. Francine Vogler), and sisters Marion Pranikoff and Territa Percelay. He was predeceased by his brother Morris. He leaves four beloved grandsons.

PAWTUCKET



PERCELAY, MERRILL, 89, of Pawtucket, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Sheela Percelay with whom he was married for 65 years. He was the son of Jacob and Frances Percelay, and a lifelong resident of Pawtucket.

Merrill graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and served as a commissioned officer during World War II. He trained on the U.S.S. Excelsior, and earned an Ocean Unlimited maritime license. He was licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard, a member of the U.S. Army Transportation Corp, and a Naval reservist. He graduated from Brown University in 1949, and later from the Harvard Business School SCMP Program.

Merrill was co-owner of Troy Yarn, a textile company in Pawtucket, and subsequently, co-owner of Craft Yarns. He entered the logging business in New Hampshire, and was a real estate developer in Portland, Maine.

Merrill and Sheela were volunteers for the Citizen Democracy Corps serving two months on small business economic development in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was an honorary board member of the Jewish Family Services Organization and recipient of the Jefferson Award for helping resettle Russian Immigrants.

Merrill was a master woodworker, and talented engineer. He loved fishing, and all matters of the sea. At 70, he sailed for two weeks on URI's oceanographic research vessel, the Endeavor. He was a devoted New England Patriots fan, and a devoted patriot himself. He was a man of unwavering integrity, a value he instilled in his three boys.

Above all, Merrill loved his family. Along with his wife Sheela, he is survived by his son James, (and wife Sabine) of Montclair, NJ, Bruce (and wife Elisabeth) of Boston, MA, and David (and wife Dr. Francine Vogler) of Malibu, CA, sisters Marion Pranikoff of Winston Salem N.C., Territa Percelay of Pawtucket, RI. He was predeceased by his brother Morris. He leaves four beloved grandsons, as well as beloved nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at the Sugarman Sinai Chapel in Providence **TODAY,** Tuesday, March 15th at 1:00 pm. Following will be a burial with military honors at Swan Point Cemetery. Shiva will be held at the Percelay home on Tuesday 7-9 pm, Wednesday 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Family Services, 959 N Main St, Providence, RI 02904 or US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, 300 Steamboat Rd, Kings Point, NY 11024.